

## COUNTRY DATA: Saudi Arabia

: Information from the CIA World

### INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and home to Islam's two holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina. The king's official title is the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The modern Saudi state was founded in 1932 by ABD AL-AZIZ bin Abd al-Rahman Al SAUD (Ibn Saud) after a 30-year campaign to unify most of the Arabian Peninsula. A male descendent of Ibn Saud, his son ABDALLAH bin Abd al-Aziz, rules the country today as required by the country's 1992 Basic Law. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Saudi Arabia accepted the Kuwaiti royal family and 400,000 refugees while allowing Western and Arab troops to deploy on its soil for the liberation of Kuwait the following year. The continuing presence of foreign troops on Saudi soil after the liberation of Kuwait became a source of tension between the royal family and the public until all operational US troops left the country in 2003. Major terrorist attacks in May and November 2003 spurred a strong on-going campaign against domestic terrorism and extremism. King ABDALLAH has continued the cautious reform program begun when he was crown prince. To promote increased political participation, the government held elections nationwide from February through April 2005 for half the members of 179 municipal councils. In December 2005, King ABDALLAH completed the process by appointing the remaining members of the advisory municipal councils. The king instituted an Inter-Faith Dialogue initiative in 2008 to encourage religious tolerance on a global level; in February 2009, he reshuffled the cabinet, which led to more moderates holding ministerial and judicial positions, and appointed the first female to the cabinet. The country remains a leading producer of oil and natural gas and holds more than 20% of the world's proven oil reserves. The government continues to pursue economic reform and diversification, particularly since Saudi Arabia's accession to the WTO in December 2005, and promotes foreign investment in the kingdom. A burgeoning population, aquifer depletion, and an economy largely dependent on petroleum output and prices are all ongoing governmental concerns.

### GEOGRAPHY

Location	Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, north of Yemen
Area	total: 2,149,690 sq km country comparison to the world: <u>14</u> land: 2,149,690 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate	<u>Current Weather</u> harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes
Natural Resources	petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper

Total Renewable Water Resources	2.4 cu km (1997)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 17.32 cu km/yr (10%/1%/89%) per capita: 705 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper
Environmental Issues	desertification; depletion of underground water resources; the lack of perennial rivers or permanent water bodies has prompted the development of extensive seawater desalination facilities; coastal pollution from oil spills
PEOPLE	
Population	25,731,776  country comparison to the world: <a href="#">46</a>  note: includes 5,576,076 non-nationals (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%
Religions	Muslim 100%
Languages	Arabic (official)
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 78.8% male: 84.7% female: 70.8% (2003 est.)
Major Infectious Diseases	
GOVERNMENT	
Type	monarchy
Independence	23 September 1932 (unification of the kingdom)
Constitution	governed according to Islamic law; the Basic Law that articulates the government's rights and responsibilities was promulgated by royal decree in 1992
Legal System	based on sharia law, several secular codes have been introduced; commercial disputes handled by special committees; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	wheat, barley, tomatoes, melons, dates, citrus; mutton, chickens, eggs, milk

<b>Industries</b>	crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, ammonia, industrial gases, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), cement, fertilizer, plastics, metals, commercial ship repair, commercial aircraft repair, construction
<b>Import commodities</b>	machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, motor vehicles, textiles
<b>Import Partners</b>	US 12.32%, China 12.06%, Germany 7.67%, Japan 6.15%, South Korea 5.32%, India 4.99%, UK 4.72%, France 4.05% (2009)
<b>Export Commodities</b>	petroleum and petroleum products 90%
<b>Export Partners</b>	Japan 15.33%, South Korea 12.71%, US 12.2%, China 10.38%, India 7.12%, Taiwan 4.54%, Singapore 4.25% (2009)
<b>Per Capita GDP</b>	<p>\$24,200 (2010 est.)</p> <p>country comparison to the world: <u>55</u></p> <p>\$23,700 (2009 est.)</p> <p>\$24,000 (2008 est.)</p> <p><i>note: data are in 2010 US dollars</i></p>
<b>Population below poverty line</b>	NA%

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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<b>General</b>	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	73.3 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	7.8 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$24,726
<b>Gender Inequality</b>	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	0%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	50.3%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	57.9%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	21.8%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	87%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	96%
<b>Poverty</b>	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	--
<b>Empowerment</b>	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	1
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	29%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	22%

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	100%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	0%
Population without Access to Water (%)	7%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	31%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	<.01%
<b>Human Security</b>	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	700
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	--
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
<b>Demographics</b>	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	82.1%
<b>Health</b>	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	--
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	--
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	--
<b>Other</b>	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$0
Population without Electricity (%)	.8%

## Cape Verde's Public Expenditure

